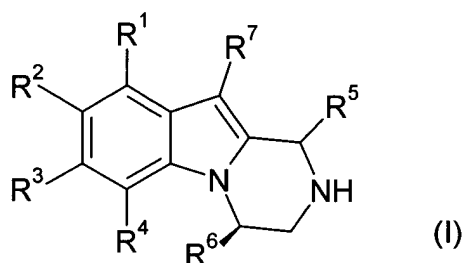


IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 13, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30 and 33 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound selected from the group consisting of chiral compounds of formula (I):



wherein

R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, alkyl, cycloalkyl, arylalkyl, aryl, alkoxy, alkoxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aryloxy, alkylcarbonyl, arylcarbonyl, alkylthio, arylthio, alkylsulfoxyl, arylsulfoxyl, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl, amino, nitro, cyano, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, mono- and di-alkylaminocarbonyl, alkylcarbonylamino, carboxy and heterocyclyl, or R^3 and R^4 form together a $-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}_2-$ group; with the proviso that at least one of R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 is not hydrogen; R^5 is hydrogen, alkyl or cycloalkyl; R^6 is ~~hydrogen~~, alkyl, cycloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl or alkoxyalkyl; and R^7 is hydrogen, halogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, carboxyalkyl, carbamoylalkyl, alkoxycarbonylalkyl, aryloxycarbonylalkyl, formyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkoxy or alkylthio;

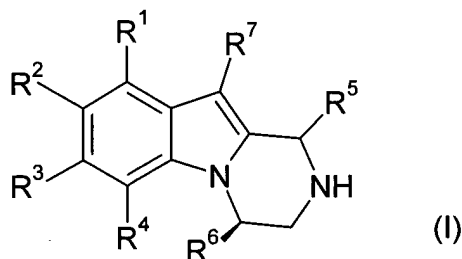
pharmaceutically acceptable salts of compounds of formula (I);

pharmaceutically acceptable ~~solvates~~ hydrates of compounds of formula (I); and
pharmaceutically acceptable esters of compounds of formula (I).

2. (Original) The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, alkyl, cycloalkyl, arylalkyl, aryl, alkoxy, alkoxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aryloxy, alkylcarbonyl, arylcarbonyl, alkylthio, arylthio, alkylsulfoxyl, arylsulfoxyl, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl, amino, nitro, cyano, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, mono- and di-alkylaminocarbonyl, alkylcarbonylamino, carboxy or heterocyclyl; with the proviso that at least one of the moieties R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 is not hydrogen; and R^6 is alkyl or cycloalkyl.
3. (Original) The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, alkyl, cycloalkyl, arylalkyl, aryl, alkoxy, alkoxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aryloxy, alkylcarbonyl, arylcarbonyl, alkylthio, arylthio, alkylsulfoxyl, arylsulfoxyl, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl, amino, nitro, cyano, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, mono- and di-alkylaminocarbonyl, alkylcarbonylamino, carboxy or heterocyclyl; with the proviso that at least one of the moieties R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 is not hydrogen; and R^6 is alkyl or hydroxyalkyl.
4. (Original) The compound according to claim 3, wherein R^6 is methyl.
5. (Original) The compound according to claim 3, wherein R^5 is hydrogen.
6. (Original) The compound according to claim 3, wherein R^7 is hydrogen, alkyl or alkoxy.
7. (Original) The compound according to claim 6, wherein R^7 is hydrogen or methyl.

8. (Original) The compound according to claim 1, wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, alkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy and cyano or R^3 and R^4 form together a $-\text{CH}_2\text{-CH}_2\text{-CH}_2-$ group.
9. (Original) The compound according to claim 8, wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, alkyl, trifluoromethyl and cyano.
10. (Original) The compound according to claim 9, wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 are independently selected from hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, fluoro, chloro, cyano and trifluoromethyl.
11. (Original) The compound according to claim 10, wherein R^4 is methyl or ethyl and R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are hydrogen.
12. (Original) The compound according to claim 10, wherein R^4 is fluoro, cyano or trifluoromethyl and R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are independently selected from hydrogen or methyl.
13. (Currently amended) A compound selected from the group consisting of chiral

compounds of formula (I):



wherein

R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 are independently selected from hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, fluoro, chloro, cyano and trifluoromethyl, with the proviso that at least one of R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 is not hydrogen;

R⁵ is methyl;

R⁶ is hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl or alkoxyalkyl; and

R⁷ is hydrogen or methyl;

pharmaceutically acceptable salts of compounds of formula (I);

pharmaceutically acceptable ~~solvates~~ hydrates of compounds of formula (I); and

pharmaceutically acceptable esters of compounds of formula (I).

14. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 13, selected from the group consisting of

(R)-6-ethyl-4-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-a]indole, pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof and pharmaceutically acceptable ~~solvates~~ hydrates thereof.

15. (Original) The compound according to claim 14, which is (R)-6-ethyl-4-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-a]indole.

16. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 13, selected from the group consisting of (R)-4,6-dimethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-a]indole, pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof and pharmaceutically ~~acceptably~~ solvates acceptable hydrates thereof.

17. (Original) The compound according to claim 16, which is (R)-4,6-dimethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-a]indole.

18. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 13, selected from the group consisting of (R)-7-chloro-4-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-a]indole, pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof and pharmaceutically ~~acceptably solvates~~ acceptable hydrates thereof.

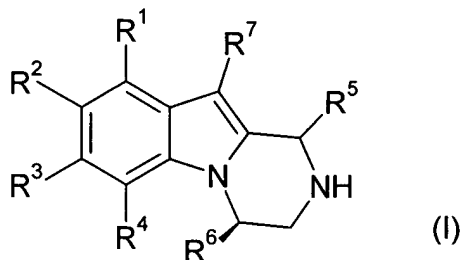
19. (Original) The compound according to claim 18, which is (R)-7-chloro-4-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-a]indole.
20. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 13, selected from the group consisting of (R)-4-methyl-6-trifluoromethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-a]indole hydrochloride, pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof and pharmaceutically ~~acceptably solvates~~ acceptable hydrates thereof.
21. (Original) The compound according to claim 20, which is (R)-4-methyl-6-trifluoromethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-a]indole hydrochloride.
22. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 13, selected from the group consisting of (R)- 6-ethyl-8-fluoro-4-methyl -1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-a]indole hydrochloride, pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof and pharmaceutically ~~acceptably solvates~~ acceptable hydrates thereof.
23. (Original) The compound according to claim 22, which is (R)- 6-ethyl-8-fluoro-4-methyl -1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-a]indole hydrochloride.
24. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 13, selected from the group consisting of (R)-8-fluoro-4,7-dimethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-a]indole hydrochloride, pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof and pharmaceutically ~~acceptably solvates~~ acceptable hydrates thereof.
25. (Original) The compound according to claim 24, which is (R)-8-fluoro-4,7-dimethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-a]indole hydrochloride.
26. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 13, selected from the group consisting of (R)-6-fluoro-4,7-dimethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-

a]indole hydrochloride, pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof and pharmaceutically ~~acceptably solvates~~ acceptable hydrates thereof.

27. (Original) The compound according to claim 26, which is (R)-6-fluoro-4,7-dimethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-a]indole hydrochloride.
28. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 13, selected from the group consisting of (R)-4-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-a]indole-6-carbonitrile hydrochloride, pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof and pharmaceutically ~~acceptably solvates~~ acceptable hydrates thereof.
29. (Original) The compound according to claim 28, which is (R)-4-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-a]indole-6-carbonitrile hydrochloride.
30. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 13, selected from the group consisting of (R)-4,6,10-trimethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-a]indole oxalate, pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof and pharmaceutically ~~acceptably solvates~~ acceptable hydrates thereof.
31. (Original) The compound according to claim 30, which is (R)-4,6,10-trimethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-a]indole oxalate.
32. (Original) A compound according to claim 1, selected from the group consisting of
(R)-6-thienyl-4-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-a]indole;
(R)-4,6-dimethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-a]indole;
(R)-7-chloro-4-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-a]indole;
(R)-4-methyl-6-trifluoromethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-a]indole;
(R)-6-ethyl-8-fluoro-4-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-a]indole;
(R)-8-fluoro-4,7-dimethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-a]indole;
(R)-6-fluoro-4,7-dimethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-a]indole;

(R)-4-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-a]indole-6-carbonitrile; and
(R)-4,6,10-trimethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-pyrazino[1,2-a]indole.

33. (Currently amended) A process for the preparation of a chiral compound according to formula (I)



wherein

R¹, R², R³ and R⁴ are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, alkyl, cycloalkyl, arylalkyl, aryl, alkoxy, alkoxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aryloxy, alkylcarbonyl, arylcarbonyl, alkylthio, arylthio, alkylsulfoxyl, arylsulfoxyl, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl, amino, nitro, cyano, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, mono- and di-alkylaminocarbonyl, alkylcarbonylamino, carboxy and heterocyclyl, or R³ and R⁴ form together a -CH₂-CH₂-CH₂- group;

with the proviso that at least one of R¹, R², R³ and R⁴ is not hydrogen;

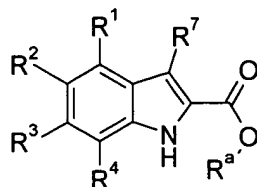
R⁵ is hydrogen, alkyl or cycloalkyl;

R⁶ is ~~hydrogen~~, alkyl, cycloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl or alkoxyalkyl; and

R⁷ is hydrogen, halogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, carboxyalkyl, carbamoylalkyl, alkoxycarbonylalkyl, aryloxycarbonylalkyl, formyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkoxy or alkylthio;

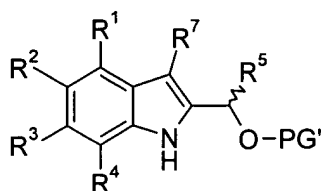
comprising alkylation of a compound selected from the group consisting of

a)



wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , and R^7 are as defined above,

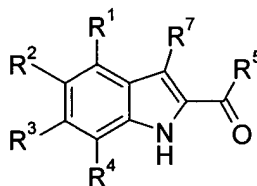
b)



E

wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , and R^7 are as defined above, and PG' is hydrogen or an OH-protecting group, and

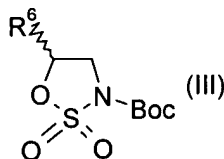
c)



Z

wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , and R^7 are as defined above;

with a compound of formula (III)



wherein R^6 is as defined as above.

34. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I) as set out in claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.